BILAL A. ESSAYLI 1 United States Attorney 2 CHRISTINA T. SHAY Assistant United States Attorney 3 Chief, Criminal Division DIANE ROLDÁN (Cal. Bar No. 288224) 4 Assistant United States Attorney Violent and Organized Crime Section 5 1300 United States Courthouse 312 North Spring Street 6 Los Angeles, California 90012 Telephone: (213) 894-6567 7 Facsimile: (213) 894-0141 E-mail: diane.roldan@usdoj.gov 8 Attorneys for Plaintiff 9 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 11 FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 12 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, No. 2:24-cr-00418-SVW 13 Plaintiff, PLEA AGREEMENT FOR DEFENDANT AKOP JACK KANTRDZYAN 14 v. 15 AKOP JACK KANTRDZYAN, 16 Defendant. 17 18 1. This constitutes the conditional plea agreement between

1. This constitutes the conditional plea agreement between AKOP JACK KANTRDZYAN ("defendant") and the United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of California (the "USAO") in the above-captioned case. This agreement is limited to the USAO and cannot bind any other federal, state, local, or foreign prosecuting, enforcement, administrative, or regulatory authorities.

DEFENDANT'S OBLIGATIONS

2. Defendant agrees to:

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a. At the earliest opportunity requested by the USAO and provided by the Court, appear and plead guilty to count one of the indictment in United States v. Akop Jack Kantrdzyan, 2:24-cr-00418-

SVW, which charges defendant with Felon in Possession of Firearms and Ammunition, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1).

- b. Not contest facts agreed to in this agreement.
- c. Abide by all agreements regarding sentencing contained in this agreement.
- d. Appear for all court appearances, surrender as ordered for service of sentence, obey all conditions of any bond, and obey any other ongoing court order in this matter.
- e. Not commit any crime; however, offenses that would be excluded for sentencing purposes under United States Sentencing Guidelines ("U.S.S.G." or "Sentencing Guidelines") § 4A1.2(c) are not within the scope of this agreement.
- f. Be truthful at all times with the United States
 Probation and Pretrial Services Office and the Court.
- g. Pay the applicable special assessment at or before the time of sentencing unless defendant has demonstrated a lack of ability to pay such assessments.
- 3. Defendant and the USAO agree that defendant's entry of a guilty plea pursuant to paragraph 2(a) above will be conditional, in that defendant reserves the right, on appeal from the judgment, to seek review of the adverse determination of (1) Defendant's Motion to Dismiss Indictment (Dkt. No. 49), and (2) Defendant's Motion to Suppress Evidence (Dkt. No. 62). If defendant prevails on appeal, defendant will be allowed to withdraw defendant's guilty plea.
 - 4. Defendant further agrees:
- a. To forfeit all right, title, and interest in and to any and all monies, properties, and/or assets of any kind, derived from or acquired as a result of, or used to facilitate the commission

of, or involved in the illegal activity to which defendant is pleading guilty, specifically including, but not limited to, the following: a FNH USA, model FNS-40C .40 caliber semiautomatic pistol, bearing serial number CSU0008531; 20 rounds of Armscor .40 caliber S&W ammunition; 15 rounds of 9mm Luger caliber ammunition; a Sig Sauer, model P320, 9mm caliber semiautomatic pistol, bearing serial number 58J065157; and 10 rounds of 9mm Luger caliber ammunition (collectively, the "Forfeitable Assets").

- b. To the Court's entry of an order of forfeiture at or before sentencing with respect to the Forfeitable Assets and to the forfeiture of the assets.
- c. To take whatever steps are necessary to pass to the United States clear title to the Forfeitable Assets, including, without limitation, the execution of a consent decree of forfeiture and the completing of any other legal documents required for the transfer of title to the United States.
- d. Not to contest any administrative forfeiture proceedings or civil judicial proceedings commenced against the Forfeitable Assets. If defendant submitted a claim and/or petition for remission for all or part of the Forfeitable Assets on behalf of himself or any other individual or entity, defendant shall and hereby does withdraw any such claims or petitions, and further agrees to waive any right he may have to seek remission or mitigation of the forfeiture of the Forfeitable Assets.
- e. Not to assist any other individual in any effort falsely to contest the forfeiture of the Forfeitable Assets.
- f. Not to claim that reasonable cause to seize the Forfeitable Assets was lacking.

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- g. To prevent the transfer, sale, destruction, or loss of any and all assets described above to the extent defendant has the ability to do so.
- h. To fill out and deliver to the USAO a completed financial statement listing defendant's assets on a form provided by the USAO.
- i. That forfeiture of Forfeitable Assets shall not be counted toward satisfaction of any special assessment, fine, restitution, costs, or other penalty the Court may impose.
- With respect to any criminal forfeiture ordered as a result of this plea agreement, defendant waives: (1) the requirements of Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 32.2 and 43(a) regarding notice of the forfeiture in the charging instrument, announcements of the forfeiture sentencing, and incorporation of the forfeiture in the judgment; (2) all constitutional and statutory challenges to the forfeiture (including by direct appeal, habeas corpus or any other means); and (3) all constitutional, legal, and equitable defenses to the forfeiture of the Forfeitable Assets in any proceeding on any grounds including, without limitation, that the forfeiture constitutes an excessive fine or punishment. Defendant acknowledges that forfeiture of the Forfeitable Assets is part of the sentence that may be imposed in this case and waives any failure by the Court to advise defendant of this, pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(b)(1)(J), at the time the Court accepts defendant's guilty plea.

THE USAO'S OBLIGATIONS

- 6. The USAO agrees to:
 - a. Not contest facts agreed to in this agreement.

- b. Abide by all agreements regarding sentencing contained in this agreement.
- c. At the time of sentencing, provided that defendant demonstrates an acceptance of responsibility for the offense up to and including the time of sentencing, recommend a two-level reduction in the applicable Sentencing Guidelines offense level, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1, and recommend and, if necessary, move for an additional one-level reduction if available under that section.
- d. At the time of sentencing, move to dismiss the remaining counts of the indictment as against defendant. Defendant agrees, however, that at the time of sentencing the Court may consider any dismissed charges in determining the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range, the propriety and extent of any departure from that range, and the sentence to be imposed.

NATURE OF THE OFFENSE

- 7. Defendant understands that for defendant to be guilty of the crime charged in count one, that is, felon in possession of firearms and ammunition, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1), the following must be true:
 - (1) Defendant knowingly possessed firearms and ammunition;
- (2) The firearms and ammunition were transported from one state to another or between a foreign nation and the United States;
- (3) At the time defendant possessed the firearms and ammunition, defendant had been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year; and
- (4) At the time defendant possessed the firearms and ammunition, defendant knew he had been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year.

PENALTIES

- 8. Defendant understands that the statutory maximum sentence that the Court can impose for a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1), is: 15 years' imprisonment; a three-year period of supervised release; a fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or gross loss resulting from the offense, whichever is greatest; and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.
- 9. Defendant understands that supervised release is a period of time following imprisonment during which defendant will be subject to various restrictions and requirements. Defendant understands that if defendant violates one or more of the conditions of any supervised release imposed, defendant may be returned to prison for all or part of the term of supervised release authorized by statute for the offense that resulted in the term of supervised release, which could result in defendant serving a total term of imprisonment greater than the statutory maximum stated above.
- 10. Defendant understands that, by pleading guilty, defendant may be giving up valuable government benefits and valuable civic rights, such as the right to vote, the right to possess a firearm, the right to hold office, and the right to serve on a jury. Defendant understands that he is pleading guilty to a felony and that it is a federal crime for a convicted felon to possess a firearm or ammunition. Defendant understands that the conviction in this case may also subject defendant to various other collateral consequences, including but not limited to revocation of probation, parole, or supervised release in another case and suspension or revocation of a professional license. Defendant understands that unanticipated

collateral consequences will not serve as grounds to withdraw defendant's quilty plea.

Defendant and his counsel have discussed the fact that, and defendant understands that, if defendant is not a United States citizen, the conviction in this case makes it practically inevitable and a virtual certainty that defendant will be removed or deported from the United States. Defendant may also be denied United States citizenship and admission to the United States in the future. Defendant understands that while there may be arguments that defendant can raise in immigration proceedings to avoid or delay removal, removal is presumptively mandatory and a virtual certainty in this case. Defendant further understands that removal and immigration consequences are the subject of a separate proceeding and that no one, including his attorney or the Court, can predict to an absolute certainty the effect of his conviction on his immigration status. Defendant nevertheless affirms that he wants to plead guilty regardless of any immigration consequences that his plea may entail, even if the consequence is automatic removal from the United States.

FACTUAL BASIS

12. Defendant admits that defendant is, in fact, guilty of the offense to which defendant is agreeing to plead guilty. Defendant and the USAO agree to the statement of facts provided below and agree that this statement of facts is sufficient to support a plea of guilty to the charge described in this agreement but is not meant to be a complete recitation of all facts relevant to the underlying criminal conduct or all facts known to either party that relate to that conduct.

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On June 13, 2024, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of California, defendant knowingly and unlawfully possessed firearms and ammunition, each in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce, after having been convicted of at least one crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year and knowing he had been convicted of such a crime. Specifically, on June 13, 2024, defendant knowingly possessed two firearms, namely a FNH USA, model FNS-40C .40 caliber semiautomatic pistol, bearing serial number CSU0008531, and a Sig Sauer, model P320, 9mm caliber semiautomatic pistol, bearing serial number 58J065157, and ammunition, namely, 10 rounds of 9mm Luger caliber ammunition, 20 rounds of Armscor .40 caliber S&W ammunition, and 15 rounds of 9mm Luger caliber ammunition (collectively, "the Firearms and Ammunition"). The Firearms and Ammunition in defendant's possession had each been manufactured outside of California and had traveled in and affected either interstate or foreign commerce. Defendant knowingly possessed the Firearms and Ammunition in three cars he had been driving.

At the time defendant knowingly possessed the Firearms and Ammunition, he had been previously convicted of, and knew he had been previously convicted of, the following felony offenses punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year:

- 1. Burglary, in violation of California Penal Code Section
 459, in the Superior Court for the State of California, County of Los
 Angeles, Case Number GA033598, on or about December 9, 1997;
- 2. Shooting at Inhabited Dwelling/Vehicle, in violation of California Penal Code Section 246, in the Superior Court for the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Case Number VA028483, on or about April 22, 1998;

- 3. False Personation of Another, in violation of California
 Penal Code Section 529, in the Superior Court for the State of
 California, County of Los Angeles, Case Number GA035938, on or about
 July 7, 1998;
- 4. Burglary, in violation of California Penal Code Section
 459, in the Superior Court for the State of California, County of Los
 Angeles, Case Number GA039140, on or about November 10, 1999;
- 5. Receipt of Stolen Property, in violation of California
 Penal Code Section 496(a), in the Superior Court for the State of
 California, County of Los Angeles, Case Number GA040933, on or about
 December 3, 1999;
- 6. Felon in Possession of Firearm, in violation of California Penal Code Section 12021, in the Superior Court for the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Case Number GA047359, on or about February 6, 2002;
- 7. Identity Theft, in violation of California Penal Code
 Section 530.5(a), in the Superior Court for the State of California,
 County of Los Angeles, Case Number GA056993, on or about March 30,
 2005;
- 8. Use Access Card Account Information Without Consent, in violation of California Penal Code Section 484e(d), in the Superior Court for the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Case Number GA056993, on or about March 30, 2005;
- 9. Conspiracy to Commit a Crime, in violation of California Penal Code Section 182(a)(1), in the Superior Court for the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Case Number BA340521, on or about September 21, 2009;

- 10. Credit/Etc.: Use Other and Possess Identification, in violation of California Penal Code Section 530.5(a), in the Superior Court for the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Case Number BA340521, on or about September 21, 2009;
- 11. Grand Theft: Money/Labor/Property, in violation of California Penal Code Section 487(a), in the Superior Court for the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Case Number BA340521, on or about September 21, 2009; and
- 12. Conspiracy to Defraud the United States, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371, in the United States

 District Court, Central District of California, Case No. 8:13-cr-21
 JLS, on or about April 25, 2014.

SENTENCING FACTORS

- 13. Defendant understands that in determining defendant's sentence the Court is required to calculate the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range and to consider that range, possible departures under the Sentencing Guidelines, and the other sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). Defendant understands that the Sentencing Guidelines are advisory only, that defendant cannot have any expectation of receiving a sentence within the calculated Sentencing Guidelines range, and that after considering the Sentencing Guidelines and the other § 3553(a) factors, the Court will be free to exercise its discretion to impose any sentence it finds appropriate up to the maximum set by statute for the crime of conviction.
- 14. Except as set forth in paragraph 6 above, defendant and the USAO have no agreement as to the appropriate sentence or the applicable Sentencing Guidelines factors. Except as set forth in

paragraph 6, both parties reserve the right to seek any sentence within the statutory maximum, and to argue for any criminal history score and category, base offense level, specific offense characteristics, adjustments, departures, and variances.

- 15. Defendant understands that there is no agreement as to defendant's criminal history or criminal history category.
- 16. Defendant and the USAO reserve the right to argue for a sentence outside the sentencing range established by the Sentencing Guidelines based on the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(6), and (a)(7).

WAIVER OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

- 17. Defendant understands that by pleading guilty, defendant gives up the following rights:
 - a. The right to persist in a plea of not guilty.
 - b. The right to a speedy and public trial by jury.
- c. The right to be represented by counsel -- and if necessary, have the Court appoint counsel -- at trial. Defendant understands, however, that, defendant retains the right to be represented by counsel -- and if necessary, have the Court appoint counsel -- at every other stage of the proceeding.
- d. The right to be presumed innocent and to have the burden of proof placed on the government to prove defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.
- e. The right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against defendant.
- f. The right to testify and to present evidence in opposition to the charges, including the right to compel the attendance of witnesses to testify.

g. The right not to be compelled to testify, and, if defendant chose not to testify or present evidence, to have that choice not be used against defendant.

h. Any and all rights to pursue any affirmative defenses, Fourth Amendment or Fifth Amendment claims, and other pretrial motions that have been filed or could be filed.

WAIVER OF APPEAL OF CONVICTION

18. Defendant understands that, with the exception of an appeal based on a claim that defendant's guilty plea was involuntary, or an appeal on the grounds specifically reserved in paragraph 3 above, by pleading guilty defendant is waiving and giving up any right to appeal defendant's conviction on the offense to which defendant is pleading guilty. Defendant understands that this waiver includes, but is not limited to, arguments that the statute to which defendant is pleading guilty is unconstitutional, and any and all claims that the statement of facts provided herein is insufficient to support defendant's plea of guilty.

LIMITED MUTUAL WAIVER OF APPEAL OF SENTENCE AND COLLATERAL ATTACK

19. Defendant agrees that, provided the Court imposes a term of imprisonment within or below the range corresponding to an offense level of 21 and the criminal history category calculated by the Court, Defendant gives up the right to appeal all of the following:

(a) the procedures and calculations used to determine and impose any portion of the sentence; (b) the term of imprisonment imposed by the Court; (c) the fine imposed by the Court, provided it is within the statutory maximum; (d) to the extent permitted by law, the constitutionality or legality of defendant's sentence, provided it is within the statutory maximum; (e) the term of probation or supervised

release imposed by the Court, provided it is within the statutory maximum; and (f) any of the following conditions of probation or supervised release imposed by the Court: the conditions set forth in Second Amended General Order 20-04 of this Court; the drug testing conditions mandated by 18 U.S.C. §§ 3563(a)(5) and 3583(d); and the alcohol and drug use conditions authorized by 18 U.S.C. § 3563(b)(7).

- 20. Defendant also gives up any right to bring a postconviction collateral attack on the conviction or sentence, except a
 post-conviction collateral attack based on a claim of ineffective
 assistance of counsel, a claim of newly discovered evidence, or an
 explicitly retroactive change in the applicable Sentencing
 Guidelines, sentencing statutes, or statutes of conviction.

 Defendant understands that this waiver includes, but is not limited
 to, arguments that the statute to which defendant is pleading guilty
 is unconstitutional, and any and all claims that the statement of
 facts provided herein is insufficient to support defendant's plea of
 guilty.
- 21. The USAO agrees that, provided (a) all portions of the sentence are at or below the statutory maximum specified above and (b) the Court imposes a term of imprisonment within or above the range corresponding to an offense level of 21 and the criminal history category calculated by the Court, the USAO gives up its right to appeal any portion of the sentence.

RESULT OF WITHDRAWAL OF GUILTY PLEA

22. Defendant agrees that if, after entering a guilty plea pursuant to this agreement, defendant seeks to withdraw and succeeds in withdrawing defendant's guilty plea on any basis other than a claim and finding that entry into this plea agreement was

involuntary, then (a) the USAO will be relieved of all of its obligations under this agreement; and (b) should the USAO choose to pursue any charge that was either dismissed or not filed as a result of this agreement, then (i) any applicable statute of limitations will be tolled between the date of defendant's signing of this agreement and the filing commencing any such action; and (ii) defendant waives and gives up all defenses based on the statute of limitations, any claim of pre-indictment delay, or any speedy trial claim with respect to any such action, except to the extent that such defenses existed as of the date of defendant's signing this agreement.

RESULT OF VACATUR, REVERSAL OR SET-ASIDE

23. Defendant agrees that if the count of conviction is vacated, reversed, or set aside, both the USAO and defendant will be released from all their obligations under this agreement.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF AGREEMENT

24. This agreement is effective upon signature and execution of all required certifications by defendant, defendant's counsel, and an Assistant United States Attorney.

BREACH OF AGREEMENT

25. Defendant agrees that if defendant, at any time after the signature of this agreement and execution of all required certifications by defendant, defendant's counsel, and an Assistant United States Attorney, knowingly violates or fails to perform any of defendant's obligations under this agreement ("a breach"), the USAO may declare this agreement breached. All of defendant's obligations are material, a single breach of this agreement is sufficient for the USAO to declare a breach, and defendant shall not be deemed to have

cured a breach without the express agreement of the USAO in writing. If the USAO declares this agreement breached, and the Court finds such a breach to have occurred, then: (a) if defendant has previously entered a guilty plea pursuant to this agreement, defendant will not be able to withdraw the guilty plea, and (b) the USAO will be relieved of all its obligations under this agreement.

- 26. Following the Court's finding of a knowing breach of this agreement by defendant, should the USAO choose to pursue any charge that was either dismissed or not filed as a result of this agreement, then:
- a. Defendant agrees that any applicable statute of limitations is tolled between the date of defendant's signing of this agreement and the filing commencing any such action.
- b. Defendant waives and gives up all defenses based on the statute of limitations, any claim of pre-indictment delay, or any speedy trial claim with respect to any such action, except to the extent that such defenses existed as of the date of defendant's signing this agreement.
- defendant, under oath, at the guilty plea hearing (if such a hearing occurred prior to the breach); (ii) the agreed to factual basis statement in this agreement; and (iii) any evidence derived from such statements, shall be admissible against defendant in any such action against defendant, and defendant waives and gives up any claim under the United States Constitution, any statute, Rule 410 of the Federal Rules of Evidence, Rule 11(f) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, or any other federal rule, that the statements or any

evidence derived from the statements should be suppressed or are inadmissible.

COURT AND UNITED STATES PROBATION AND PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICE NOT PARTIES

- 27. Defendant understands that the Court and the United States
 Probation and Pretrial Services Office are not parties to this
 agreement and need not accept any of the USAO's sentencing
 recommendations or the parties' agreements to facts or sentencing
 factors.
- 28. Defendant understands that both defendant and the USAO are free to: (a) supplement the facts by supplying relevant information to the United States Probation and Pretrial Services Office and the Court, (b) correct any and all factual misstatements relating to the Court's Sentencing Guidelines calculations and determination of sentence, and (c) argue on appeal and collateral review that the Court's Sentencing Guidelines calculations and the sentence it chooses to impose are not error. While this paragraph permits both the USAO and defendant to submit full and complete factual information to the United States Probation and Pretrial Services Office and the Court, even if that factual information may be viewed as inconsistent with the facts agreed to in this agreement, this paragraph does not affect defendant's and the USAO's obligations not to contest the facts agreed to in this agreement.
- 29. Defendant understands that even if the Court ignores any sentencing recommendation, finds facts or reaches conclusions different from those agreed to, and/or imposes any sentence up to the maximum established by statute, defendant cannot, for that reason, withdraw defendant's guilty plea, and defendant will remain bound to

fulfill all defendant's obligations under this agreement. Defendant understands that no one -- not the prosecutor, defendant's attorney, or the Court -- can make a binding prediction or promise regarding the sentence defendant will receive, except that it will be within the statutory maximum.

NO ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS

30. Defendant understands that, except as set forth herein, there are no promises, understandings, or agreements between the USAO and defendant or defendant's attorney, and that no additional promise, understanding, or agreement may be entered into unless in a writing signed by all parties or on the record in court.

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PLEA AGREEMENT PART OF THE GUILTY PLEA HEARING

The parties agree that this agreement will be considered part of the record of defendant's guilty plea hearing as if the entire agreement had been read into the record of the proceeding.

AGREED AND ACCEPTED

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

BILAL A. ESSAYLI United States Attorney

DIANE ROLDÁN

Assistant United States Attorney

AKOP ZACK KANTRDZYAN Defendant

JOHN HANUSZ

Attorney for Defendant AKOP JACK KANTRDZYAN

7/18/2025

Date

7/18/2025 Date

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CERTIFICATION OF DEFENDANT

I have read this agreement in its entirety. I have had enough time to review and consider this agreement, and I have carefully and thoroughly discussed every part of it with my attorney. I understand the terms of this agreement, and I voluntarily agree to those terms. I have discussed the evidence with my attorney, and my attorney has advised me of my rights, of possible pretrial motions that might be filed, of possible defenses that might be asserted either prior to or at trial, of the sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. \S 3553(a), of relevant Sentencing Guidelines provisions, and of the consequences of entering into this agreement. No promises, inducements, or representations of any kind have been made to me other than those contained in this agreement. No one has threatened or forced me in any way to enter into this agreement. I am satisfied with the representation of my attorney in this matter, and I am pleading guilty because I am guilty of the charge and wish to take advantage of the promises set forth in this agreement, and not for any other reason.

AKOP JACK KANTRDZYAN Defendant

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CERTIFICATION OF DEFENDANT'S ATTORNEY

I am AKOP JACK KANTRDZYAN's attorney. I have carefully and thoroughly discussed every part of this agreement with my client. Further, I have fully advised my client of his rights, of possible pretrial motions that might be filed, of possible defenses that might be asserted either prior to or at trial, of the sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), of relevant Sentencing Guidelines provisions, and of the consequences of entering into this agreement. To my knowledge: no promises, inducements, or representations of any kind have been made to my client other than those contained in this agreement; no one has threatened or forced my client in any way to enter into this agreement; my client's decision to enter into this agreement is an informed and voluntary one; and the factual basis set forth in this agreement is sufficient to support my client's entry of a guilty plea pursuant to this agreement.

Attorney for Defendant

AKOP JACK KANTRDZYAN

7/18/9025